



## DEAF SERVICES COMMISSION OF IOWA

Commission Meeting  
Saturday, May 4, 2013  
Pleasant Hill Public Library  
5151 Maple Drive  
Pleasant Hill, Iowa  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The DSCI Commission Meeting was called to order by Chair Theresa Legg at 10:04 a.m.

Members present: Theresa Legg, Nathaniel Garrels, Tina Kastendieck, Jennifer Upah, Bob Vizzini and Mark Hersch

Members absent: Jennifer Keaton

Staff members present: Jill Fulitano-Avery, Heidi Smith, Lynsie Crawford and Linda Scott

Staff members absent: Stephanie Lyons and San Wong, Direct, DHR and *Ex-Officio*

Interpreters: Peggy Chicoine, Jeff Reese, Renee Johnson and Holly Shannon

Commissioners, staff and interpreters were introduced, visitors recognized and ground rules for the meeting established.

### **Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2013:**

**Motion #13-08:** There being no additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the February 2, 2013 meeting, motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Garrels/Vizzini** All in favor, motion carried.

### **Commissioner/Committee Reports:**

#### **Culturally Affirmative Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Aftercare**

**Services:** Legg indicated that relating to Mental Health Services, people are starting to be accepted for services. It appears that funding is there now to July 1, 2013.

**Accessible Legal Representation:** Kastendieck has been doing some research on Accessible Legal Representation and has found interpreting services in many of the rural areas is limited and many times when arrests go criminal or the victim is deaf or hard of hearing, it's the family members who must interpret. Under Iowa Code, a family member is not to be interpreting in such a situation. It should be someone outside the family with some knowledge of the law.

Much discussion took place about how law enforcement officers could use assistive technology to talk with the arrested individual or victim without using a family member. Some of the suggestions were: 1) all law enforcement websites should have some type of icon for anyone with a communication deficit; 2) additional certified interpreters to use in a court setting; 3) maybe an Emergency Flip Book to use for different situations – accidents,

arrests and other emergencies encountered by law enforcement personnel and emergency responders; 4) a Pocketbook of Emergency Signs for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to kept in the squad cars to use as needed; 5) the possibility of an I-pad app that would work like a flip book using emergency signs in the majority of situations and, 6) the last possibility is to work with the legislature to make communication issues a required course in the ILEA and Emergency Preparedness. In each county, it might be possible to have a law enforcement individual who would be required to take a refresher course on communication with aspects to the deaf and hard of hearing and that that individual would be required to attend the course periodically – every 2-5 years. There might even be an incentive for law enforcement personnel to take the course – something in the way of additional pay, the county paying for the course with updates and it then might be possible for that individual to rise in rank for having the knowledge.

In discussion, Hersch pointed out there that appears to be a certification program going on in the state of Iowa at the county level where Sheriff's departments need to complete various blocks in order to become certified, but right now he doesn't know what the program is, but the Dallas County Sheriff is mandated to come up with all kinds of interpreters for different communication situations.

Upah indicated that ILEA sent out a survey to the deaf community asking them how law enforcement was doing in meeting their needs. They've been doing that survey every years and Upah, too, has been furnishing information to ILEA so that officers, counties and cities know what's going on and then she goes to the different counties to train the staff.

Kastendieck will work on gathering statistics from law enforcement officials on the number of arrests of deaf or hard of hearing individuals and, if possible, the number of victims that needed an interpreter.

**Licensed Sign Language Interpreters Meeting Competency Standards:** Vizzini indicated that he recently received an e-mail from an interpreter coordinator concerning courtroom interpreters and the law. He forwarded on the information to Kathy Miller, President, Iowa Association for the Deaf (IAD) regarding wording changes the Court Interpreter Policy Advisory Committee would like to see in Chapters 47 and 48 of the Iowa Code – Superior Court. At the present time, approx. six (6) people in the state are licensed to interpret in the Iowa Supreme Court.

Vizzini and Legg attended a recent Interpreter Training Program Advisory Committee meeting at Kirkwood Community College (KCC), Cedar Rapids. This fall will be the last year for 2<sup>nd</sup> year ITP students and next year they will not accept any new students to the program. At present they have 11 students in the 2-year program. ASL will become a foreign language and transferred to a different department within the school. Money has become an issue for this program. Central Iowa Community College has some ASL classes and Drake University has started a 4-year program with ISU talking about doing the same, but it's up to the Board of Regents and the money they allow for such a program.

**Staff Reports:**

**DHR Board:** Upah reported that the DHR Board hasn't met for a few months but work is being done on a Strategic Plan, along with the Communications Committee. The committee will be meeting again in the next few weeks to finalize the Plan.

Avery:

- has been e-mailing out the commission reports as well as mailing out a hard copy of the reports to commission members.
- attended the last quarterly meeting of the Central Iowa Hearing Loss Association (CIHLA) and hopes to attend often.
- will be attending a national disability conference in Seattle, WA in June with federal government funding. Will be traveling with the head of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), someone out of Washington, DC and a representative from the Governor's Office. Any information pertinent to the Office of Deaf Services and the commission will be shared on her return.
- Lyons has asked that a sign-up sheet be passed around to the commissioners for each to take a turn in writing an article for the Sign of the Times E-News newsletter. All commissioners should take a turn writing an article.
- discussed e-mail protocol for the office. If anyone has anything about any subject matter related to the commission, the office or agenda, they are asked to e-mail Avery as well so that the chair of the commission can be "kept in the loop". Any other items can go to Lyons or Crawford. If it has to do with commission business, make sure Avery is included.
- has been working with Lyons and Crawford to update the quarterly report pages as some of the information contained in the report is outdated. If any commissioner has feedback, please get it to Avery.
- JCP Camp will be held July 13-19, 2014 at the Y Camp in Boone, IA. That is the first possible date available and that's only because someone else who had scheduled activities dropped out and we were able to move into that slot.

Crawford: No report.

Smith: No report.

**Public Comment:**

Donald Mikesell, representing IAD, wanted to invite everyone to the next IAD meeting to be held on May 11, 2013 at Stoney Creek Hotel, Johnston, IA beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**Old Business:**

**Contractual Interpreting Funds for FY2013:** Avery provided a rundown of contractual interpreting funds for FY13 to-date. As requested of the commission, Scott provided all commissioners and staff with a breakdown by year from 2005-present of number of requests, requests for and monies spent.

Discussion on contractual funding took place and the remaining funds of \$3030.00 for May-June 2013.

**New Business:****Deaf Capitol Day:**

- Deaf Capitol Day will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2013 from 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Miller and Lyons are working on the agenda and Lyons encouraged all Commissioners who could take part, to be there, volunteer and be a part of the day. There might be the possibility of a workshop on how the community can talk with their legislator(s) and work with them this session

**Youth Detention Screening Tool:** Avery and Wong discussed the Detention Screening Tool used by the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP). This is a research based tool presently used in Waterloo, Des Moines and Davenport. This screening tool avoids emotional decisions in detention placement. All boards/commissions have approved this tool to date and CJJP is asking for the Commission's approval as well.

**Motion #13-05:** Motion that the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa give their approval for use of the Screening Tool. **Snyder/Garrels** Vote: Aye: Garrels/Kastendieck/Snyder; Nay: Vizzini and Keaton. Motion carried.

Next Commission meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 2, 2013 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** As soon as a location is found, Commissioners will be informed.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

---

Theresa Legg, Chair

---

Linda Scott, Secretary